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REMARKS

Claim 36 has been revised better to point out that which applicants regard as their invention and to overcome the objection thereto.

Line 20 of the claim now properly calls for a "locking means" rather than a "locking part" and the claim now specifies that the open lower end of the container body is wider than the body's upper wall, the recessed portion extends from the upper wall to the side wall, the lid operating device has a horizontal strip to be depressed and cooperating with the latching part, and the horizontal strip is located within the outside shape of the container body. Support can be found at least in Fig. 1 for recitation (a) and in at least Fig. 35 for recitation (b) and (c). Fig. 1 is believed clearly to support also that the open lower end of the container body is wider than its upper wall.

The rejection of claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 11 to 13, 15 to 32, and 34 to 36 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Ishikawa et al. '912 and the remaining 103 rejections using Ishikawa et al. '912 as the primary reference taken in conjunction with various secondary teachings, if applied to the claims as amended, are respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that the references do not

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teach or suggest having the container body open lower end wider than the body's upper wall and features (a) to (c) nor do the references teach or suggest the advantages to be gained thereby.

Applicants note and appreciate the detailed explanations of the Examiner's positions in the various art rejections. However, for reasons given below, applicants respectfully submit that the claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. The following three paragraphs discuss the newly added features and the advantages of using same.

More particularly, when the recessed portion extends from the upper wall to the side wall and the open lower end is wider than the upper wall, the container body can be placed in a stable manner with the open lower end facing, for example, the upper surface of a desk. Moreover, when the horizontal strip is depressed from the upside to release the latching part from the locking means, the hinged lid can be easily released in a one-touch manner with one hand because the container body is stably placed on a desk.

By having the recessed portion extend from the upper wall to the side wall, only one recessed portion needs to be formed for the corresponding upper wall and side wall, allowing easy and compact formation of the recessed portion.

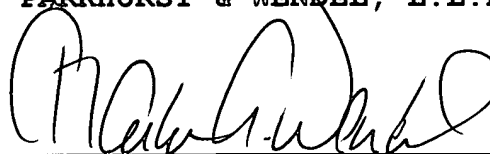
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Having the lid operating device contain a horizontal strip to be depressed and cooperating with latching part with the horizontal strip which is located within the outside shape of the container body means that upon application of a depressing force on the horizontal strip (to open the lid), the container body will not move or tilt because the depressing force is applied within the container body. In addition, the container can be easily and compactly wrapped with a wrapping film because the horizontal strip does not project from the outside of the container body.

Reconsideration of the rejection in view of the foregoing revisions and remarks is earnestly solicited.

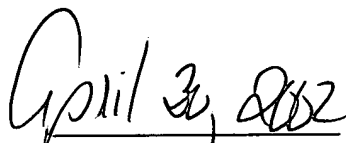
Respectfully submitted,

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MAKUP

Twice

36. (Amended) A container with a hinged lid comprising:

a container body having (1) an upper wall with an opening defined therein, (2) a recessed portion along an edge of the opening of the upper wall on a side of a free edge of a hinged lid defined herein, the recessed portion forming a plane below the upper wall, and (3) a side wall integral with and extending in a diverging manner from the upper wall to define an open lower end;

that is wider than the upper wall

a bottom wall covering the open lower end of the side wall;

a hinged lid pivotally attached to the container body in the vicinity of the opening, the hinged lid obstructing at least one edge of the opening of the upper wall, the hinged lid positionable to cover the opening of the upper wall;

an elastic biasing means between the hinged lid and the container body, whereby the biasing means urges the hinged lid away from the opening of the upper wall into an open position;

locking means on a free edge of the hinged lid; and

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a lid operating device provided in the recessed portion, having a latching part facing the interior of the container body, the latching part for engaging the locking means, whereby the latching part releases the locking ^{means} [part] when the lid operating device is operated in the recessed portion, thereby moving the latching part away from the locking means, and releasing the hinged lid.

wherein

(a) the recessed portion extends from the upper wall to the side wall,

(b) the lid operating device has a horizontal strip to be depressed, and cooperating with the latching part, and

(c) the horizontal strip is located within the outside shape of the container body